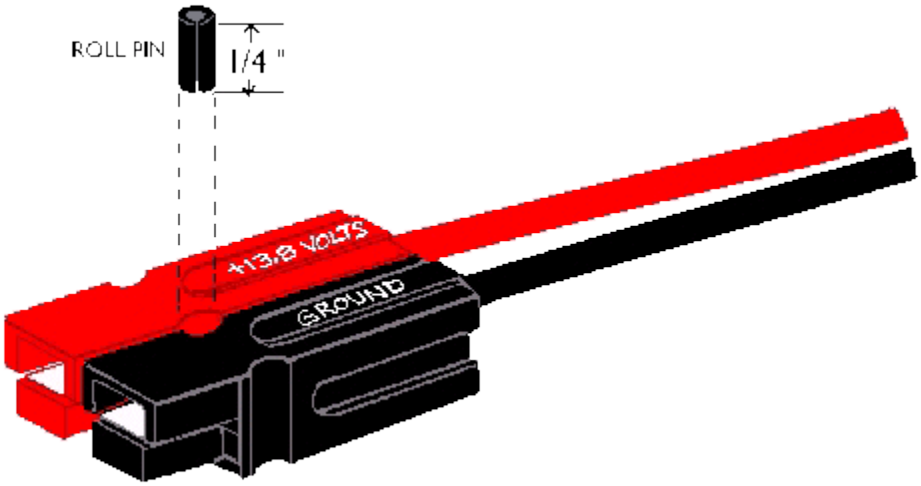
Volume 9, Edition 2

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

February 2005



WE'RE GONNA POWER YOU UP COME MEETING TIME!

RED=+13.8VDC, BLACK= GROUND (FORGET THE ROLL PIN)

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

In times of emergency, ACS members and others will be called to be communicators using whatever equipment at our disposal. You may use your rig, city equipment, county equipment, your power supplies and those of others.

In the past, the Molex connector has been the standard for connecting radios and power supplies, but that has changed. The new standard is the Anderson Powerpole connector. It's easy to set up and has better electrical characteristics than the Molex.

You can go to

http://www.andersonpower.com/products/pdf/stdpp_assy.pdf for a description of the connector and try http://www.swtraffic.com/sca/powerpole.htm for more information. Also, Ken, N6KM, sent this site; http://home.comcast.net/~buck0/app.htm

Our goal is to get all members of the club to use these connectors. This is important for the emergency crisis, but also for field day and any other club event where we get together and operate each other's radios.
We will have an Anderson Powerpole conversion session at the February meeting. Bring any radio, battery pack or power supply and we will adapt it to the new standard connector. The meeting will be at McDougal Hall at SDC.

As you get this newsletter, we will have started our ham class. Even at this late date, put the word out about it. We really need to get students so then, hopefully, we get new members. If you belong to a club or any other organization, talk the class up.

Looking ahead to March, we have the CQ SSB DX contest on the 26th and 27th. I am thinking about going to Dillon beach for the weekend and set up a club station (s) much like field day. Let me know if you would be interested.

Hope to see you at the next meeting. Please stay active. It's the only way to keep our bands from commercial interests.
73, Jim

ON CALL
Sonoma Valley ACS
February 2005

Dept. of Homeland Security Grant: We now need to install the new equipment at the EOC. The DHS is going to audit the distribution of the equipment to be sure it is actually used and we must have it installed by March 31st. Darrel, WD6BOR, and Mike, WB6TMH, are in charge of the install. Stay tuned for info on work parties!

P.D./EOC remodel: The City of Sonoma is now talking about demolishing the P.D./Council Chambers and building a new building. Stand-by for further information.

Hamfest: We will be discussing the possibility of having an Emergency Communications theme at the April 23rd Hamfest. There is the possibility that American Red Cross, Solano Op Area and Coastal Region ACS will have major units on display and that there will be a presentation program as well.

Our Neighbors: I think it is a great idea to keep in touch with our neighbors that we may have to contact in an emergency. Our nearest cities are Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Novato, Napa and Vallejo. While Santa Rosa and Petaluma are in our ACS

organization, the other three cities are in three different Op Areas. Why not listen to their nets and check in as a guest? Marin has a net each Tuesday evening. Start with the Novato area at 1915 on 147.57 simplex (I hear the net control loudly at my station) and then their county-wide net is at 1930 on 147.330+/PL203.5. I'll have some more nets for you to try next time around.

Finally: Our next VOMARC meeting will have a session devoted to putting Anderson PowerPole connectors on any radios and power supplies you care to bring. This is a good idea as virtually all amateur radio emergency organizations are now using them. All the equipment at our EOC will be converted and we will start the process of converting the equipment at the various fire stations. The old Molex style connectors are truly out-of-date and a little too anemic for the larger output VHF/UHF and HF radios.

Ken McTaggart N6KM, ACS Unit Leader

VOMARC MINUTES

Well, you can thank Bill Gates for sending the January meeting minutes to the netherworld or into the ether somewhere. They actually got here plenty early, but the evening before this newsletter was written, the editor's computer crashed so thoroughly that the hard drive needed to be reformatted. The trusty Underwriter was dragged out from under the editor's desk (I kid you not), but the ink in the ribbon had dried out.

Out came the lined yellow pad and pencil, but who could find a pencil sharpener? (This rambling narrative is an old editorial trick to fill up the last of the publication, late at night, so the readership will get the latest news hot off the presses sometime before the next meeting).

Fear not, dear hearts. With the support and heroic effort of the officers, enough news was salvaged to write one more Wireless in time for publication.

The President didn't tell you, but he spent many hours testing vacuum tubes during some of the recent football games so they could be sold on Ebay with the proceeds going into the VOMARC treasury.

Good news! We were able to set up a VOMARC account and list six pairs of some commonly used audio tubes. At the end of the first week, four pairs sold for a modest amount, which will then be transferred into the VOMARC bank account. Six more pair are currently on the block, with bids on four of them.

This will be a very slow process if we only have one tube checker and one tube packer. The club was able to sort twenty-four file storage boxes of tubes in the course of one very busy day. With a few more

hands helping with the testing and listing, we could probably list one or two dozen tubes each week.

Jim has been plugging away, sweating over a hot tube tester, but would probably be willing to share the fun with any volunteers willing to learn a new and valuable skill. Give him a call at 935-7441 to arrange for your valuable training.

THE VOMARC W-IRELESS

VOLUME 9 EDITION 2

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President

Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN– Vice-Pres

Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Treasurer

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggert, N6KM – ACS

Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE:
http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as “SNV1EC”. “SNVGW” can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is “SNVND”.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa’s Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

wd6bor@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

Valley of the Moon ARC
1496 Nut Tree Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476

NOTICE!!! THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, AT 7:30 P.M. AT MCDOUGAL HALL, SDC
CU THERE!

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP
VOMARC 2004 Membership Dues: $10/year individual; $5/year family member.

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____
_____

Address:_____APT:
_____

VOMARC: $_____